

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The foregoing amendment and the following arguments are provided to impart precision to the claims, by more particularly pointing out the invention, rather than to avoid prior art.

35 U.S.C. § 112 Rejections

Examiner rejected claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 11 has been amended to overcome the rejection.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejections

Examiner rejected claims 1, 6, 11, 16-17, 20, 25 and 35 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable by U.S. Patent No. 6,404,317 (hereinafter "Mizoguchi '317") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,121,852 (hereinafter "Mizoguchi '852").

Claim 1 includes a limitation of a first magnetic layer between the substrate and the first conductor and a second magnetic layer between the first conductor and the second conductor, wherein the first magnetic layer is coupled to the second magnetic layer. Neither Mizoguchi '317 nor Mizoguchi '852 teach such a limitation, and as a result, claim 1 is patentable over Mizoguchi '317 and Mizoguchi '852.

Specifically, as can be seen in Figures 21, 23, and 24 of Mizoguchi '317, the magnetic layers 30A and 30B are separated by several insulation layers 20A, 20B, and 20C, as well as two coils 40A and 40B (Col. 16, lines 33-43). The magnetic

layers 30A and 30B sandwich the remaining components and are not connected in any way. As a result, Mizoguchi '317 does not teach this limitation.

Mizoguchi '852 also does not teach this limitation. Specifically, in Figures 5, 6, 7A, and 9, several magnetic layers 12 have a dielectric layer 13 disposed in between them, and they do not contact each other. Similarly, in Figures 10, 11, 12, and 16, the multiple magnetic layers 22 are separated by dielectric layers 23. In Figures 21, 23A, and 23B, the upper magnetic layer 34 is separated from the lower magnetic layer 35 by a dielectric layer 33. As a result, in each of the many embodiments of Mizoguchi '852 including multiple magnetic layers, the magnetic layers are separated by a dielectric layer. Therefore, Mizoguchi '852 does not teach the claimed limitation of claim 1, and claim 1 is patentable over Mizoguchi '317 and Mizoguchi '852.

Claim 11 includes a limitation of a second magnetic layer disposed between a first conductor and the substrate, wherein the second magnetic layer is coupled to a first magnetic layer. For the reasons mentioned above discussing claim 1, namely that none of the references teach coupled magnetic layers, claim 11 is patentable over Mizoguchi '317 and Mizoguchi '852.

Claim 20 includes a limitation of forming a first magnetic layer between a substrate and a first conductor, and a second magnetic layer between the first conductor and a second conductor, wherein the first magnetic layer is coupled to the second magnetic layer. For the reasons mentioned above discussing claim 1, namely that none of the references teach coupled magnetic layers, claim 11 is patentable over Mizoguchi '317 and Mizoguchi '852.

Claims 6, 16-17, 25, and 35 depend from the above discussed independent claims, and therefore include all the limitation of those independent claims.

Since the independent claims are patentable over Mizoguchi '317 and Mizoguchi '852, claims 6, 16-17, 25, and 35 are also patentable over Mizoguchi '317 and Mizoguchi '852.

Examiner rejected claims 2-5 and 21-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable by U.S. Patent No. 6,404,317 (hereinafter "Mizoguchi '317") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,121,852 (hereinafter "Mizoguchi '852"), and in further view of Fessant et al. (hereinafter "Fessant").

Claims 2-5 and 21-24 depend from the above discussed independent claims, and therefore include all the limitation of those independent claims. Since the independent claims are patentable over Mizoguchi '317 and Mizoguchi '852, claims 2-5 and 21-24 are patentable over Mizoguchi '317, Mizoguchi '852, and Fessant.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite or assist in the allowance of the present application, the Examiner is invited to call Arlen M. Hartounian at (408) 720-8300.


Authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any charges that may be due.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN

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